

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE XXX

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1995



## *Admirable award*

KING COUNTY Council Member Greg Nickels presents Merrilee Hagen, society president, with a countywide AKCHO award May 30 at the Admiral Theatre. Looking on (from right) are Elliott Couden, founder; Joan Mraz, treasurer; Arlene Wade, vice-president; and Carol Vincent, membership secretary. See story, page 5.

Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

*Time once again for our annual*

# PICNIC!



**Society supplies fixin's,  
but feel free to bring more**

Summer's around the corner, and it's time for a warm sun, a cool breeze, a hot dog, potato chips, an icy soda pop, even a refreshing dish of ice cream - all to be found at our society's annual Membership Picnic, to be held on Sunday, June 25, at the Log House Museum.

The museum site, which will feature indoor and outdoor seating areas, is at 3003

61st Ave. S.W., corner of Southwest Stevens Street and 61st Avenue Southwest.

As traditional, the picnic will run from 1 to 4 p.m., and the basics in food (listed above) will be provided. Extra food to share is always encouraged, however.



Feel free to bring any items of interest to the party, as well as an appetite for good food and conversation.

For more information on the picnic, please call CAROL VINCENT, membership secretary, at 937-6744.

*The museum site, which will feature indoor and outdoor seating areas, is at 3003 61st Ave. S.W., corner of Southwest Stevens Street and 61st Avenue Southwest.*

**A big thank-you to Martha Kongsgaard! See page 3**

# Alki Beach and Ivar Haglund live on in the Memories of Billee

*Your first date  
was Ivar  
Haglund?*

*Yes, my first date  
unchaperoned.*

*Are you going to  
tell us what he  
was like for a first  
date?*

*He was just nice.  
We went together  
for three years. If he  
hadn't been a  
theosophist, we  
probably would have  
gotten married, but  
we were friends all  
our lives.*

Every building possesses a story. The trick is to get it to talk.

In the case of our society's Log House Museum, part of the story is its role as the carriage house and maid's quarters for the larger structure that is now the Alki Homestead Restaurant at 2717 61st Ave. S.W.

Ever since it was built in 1902, the Homestead has had several incarnations, one of which was as a home for the Bernard family in the building's earliest days.

In our society's search for information on the Bernards, who ran a soap manufacturing business, Vice President ARLENE WADE discovered BILLEE BERNARD FULICK, a resident of Sequim who celebrated her 86th birthday on May 31 of this year.

Thrice married, Billee has lived an evenful life in her own right, traveling all over the United States, Mexico and Europe, meeting President Calvin Coolidge and Pope Paul XI and dancing with a Spanish prince. But she also has a connection to West Seattle. Gladys and William Joseph Bernard adopted Billee in infancy, a couple of years after they sold the Homestead building, then called Fir Lodge, in 1907 to the Seattle Automobile Club.

With a tape recorder in hand, Arlene and Membership Secretary CAROL VINCENT visited Billee recently in Sequim. While Billee is not in the best of health, she did reminisce for a few minutes about Alki Beach and one of West Seattle's famous "sons," the late Ivar Haglund, who died in

1985. Here are excerpts from the interview:

**You remember going back to visit at Alki?**

Oh, yes, I used to play there all the time with the O'Briens. There was a stockade, a big, old stockade. It's a shame they tore it down. I used to go out on the streetcar. My real sister Mary lived out there, and I used to go play with her.

**What did you girls do at Alki?**

We played on the beach. I remember Mary. There must be a picture of her somewhere in a bathing suit with puff sleeves and puffed pants. It was awfully cold out there, but that's where we all went to play.

**Your first date was Ivar**

**Haglund?**

Yes, my first date unchaperoned.

**Are you going to tell us what he was like for a first date?**

He was just nice. We went together for three years. If he hadn't been a theosophist [someone who practices the beliefs of a religious sect incorporating Buddhism and Brahmanism], we probably would have gotten married, but we were friends all our lives.

**He played the ukelele?**

Yes, but later the guitar.

**How did you date in those days?**

He had a little Ford coupe, and he sang for a lot of people. He sang in Tacoma, and he sang in Seattle. That's where we went a lot,



**Billie Bernard  
Fullick, age 50**

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*See BILLEE, continued on page 3*

and I went with him. Sometimes we would go ahead of time, and I'd sit in the back of the room to see how his voice sounded. I don't think he danced. I used to love to dance.

**Was there a dance hall at Alki?**

We never went to dance halls. We always went to private dances, and we had private parties at our house. A woman in Seattle named Mrs. Nugent had a huge ballroom on the third floor of her house, and Mrs. Louie had a ballroom. We went there and had private dances.

**Did Ivar spend time with your family?**

Yes, he ate at our house a lot of the time, and his father came with him some of the times. His father was a very odd man, and his mother died when he was a very young boy.

**You and Ivar eventually had religious differences?**



Photo courtesy of Doris Nelson

**THE ALKI HOMESTEAD Restaurant building, soon after it was built in 1902.**

He was a theosophist, and a very strong theosophist. He preached it, you know. He went to India and studied it. We always knew we could never marry because we were so different in our beliefs.

**But you were good friends.**

For all of our lives.

*[Anyone with historical information about the Log House Museum and the building that is now the Alki Homestead Restaurant is encouraged to call Arlene Wade at 937-7494 or Carol Vincent at 937-6744. Our society is preparing a Seattle landmark nomination for both buildings.]*

## Society receives first major gift for museum from Kongsgaard

The Fund-Raising Committee of our society's Executive Board has established new categories of giving for the Log House Museum -- and just in time.

The first major donor to the log house, the Martha Kongsgaard Foundation, has contributed \$10,000 to our society's \$51,000 emergency fund-raising campaign.

"This is a most welcome gift," says **MERRILEE HAGEN**, society president, "not only because of its size and the need for such funds, but also because it sets a standard for other major supporters of the museum to meet."

**MARTHA KONGSGAARD**, who lives along Beach Drive, has operated a private, non-profit foundation for many years and donated to a variety of charitable causes. A large part of the reason for her gift to the log

house is that the museum project will have a directly positive impact on her neighborhood.

The categories of giving established by the Fund-Raising Committee are:

- Chief Seattle Circle, \$50,000-plus.
- Denny Party Circle, \$25,000-plus.
- Landing Party Circle, \$10,000-plus.
- Princess Angeline Circle, \$5,000-plus.
- Alki Circle, \$2,500-plus.
- Log House Circle, \$1,000-plus.
- Pioneers, \$500-plus.
- Homesteaders, \$250-plus.
- Settlers, \$100-plus.

For more information on the campaign, see the letter on page 4 of this newsletter, or call **ARLENE WADE**, society vice president, at 937-7494.

*'This is a most welcome gift, not only because of its size and the need for such funds, but also because it sets a standard for other major supporters of the museum to meet.'*

*Merrilee Hagen,  
society president*

# Letter to members appeals for emergency donations to repair, renovate Log House Museum

*Never in the history of the organization has the need for member endorsement been so imperative.*

Under city covenant, Society needs to raise \$51,000 by Sept. 1

*[Editor's note: Following is the complete text of a letter mailed earlier this month by the Executive Board to all 300-plus members of our society. The form referred to at the bottom of the letter can be found on the back page of this newsletter.]*

Dear member,

If you have been following articles in local newspapers, you're aware that our Southwest Seattle Historical Society has purchased the log house on 61st Avenue Southwest and Southwest Stevens Street for conversion to an historic museum.

Acquiring the log house was an exciting accomplishment for our society. Our work, however, has just begun. Your help is needed to help make the museum a reality. Purchase of the house was made possible by a \$170,000 grant from Metro Mitigation Funds, a \$15,000 emergency grant from King County Historic Preservation and \$5,500 in contributions, mostly from SWSHS members.

To begin the process of bringing the building up to code, a \$28,000 grant was applied for and received from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, for the planning and design phase of this restoration and conversion project. This phase is already under way.

Phase II will necessitate SWSHS raising \$51,000 to implement the repairs and construction needed to execute the planning and design. This will involve repairing and/or

replacing damaged logs, installing a new roof and building a handicap access and restroom facilities ... and all this must be done by Sept. 1 of this year!!! (It's required in the covenant between the City of Seattle and the SWSHS.) As you can see, there is an urgency for raising the funds for Phase II repairs by **Aug. 15.**

We are applying for grants, approaching foundations and local businesses and creating a major fund-raising campaign ... all of which require TIME, and that's a very scarce commodity right now. So the SWSHS Board is appealing to its membership to come forward with contributions and

donations that will help carry us financially over the next several months. Never in the history of the organization has the need for member endorsement been so imperative. The SWSHS Board and numerous volunteers have worked long and hard to bring the dream this far. Please, give us the backing to bring together the elements needed to create a museum home.

Your generous support will go a long way in taking the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum one step closer to reality as the society continues with preparations for the **Grand Opening on Nov. 13, 1996.** Please fill out and return the attached form with your check or money order made out to Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

If you have any questions, please call me, Arlene Wade or Merrilee Hagen.

Sincerely,

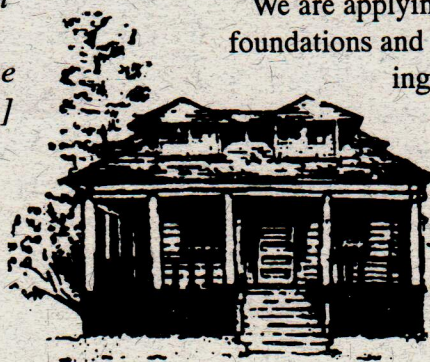
Carol Vincent

Membership Secretary

**CAROL VINCENT, 937-6744**

**MERRILEE HAGEN, President, 932-0460**

**ARLENE WADE, Vice-President, 937-7494**



The honors came fast and furious on Tuesday, May 30, but our society was first among equals at the annual awards meeting of the Association of King County Historical Organizations.

Not only did AKCHO give our society a project award for the Log House Museum acquisition, but it also held the ceremony in the society's backyard -- the city landmark Admiral Theatre. The AKCHO statement read:

"The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is being recognized for conducting one of the most successful campaigns in the history of the heritage community to raise funds for the acquisition and preservation of the Log House at Alki Point, the former Carriage House of the Alki Homestead Restaurant.

"The Log House will be the society's 'Birthplace of Seattle' Museum and an educational facility for students, visitors and community members. The Log House is one of the most significant buildings in the

community and is being nominated to the Seattle landmarks register. Congratulations!"

MERRILEE HAGEN, our society's president, along with several other Executive Board

members, accepted the AKCHO award on behalf of the society.

AKCHO previously has bestowed honors on the work of our society's Save the Admiral Theatre Task Force, which

spearheaded the landmark campaign for the 1942 moviehouse. Hagen delivered a brief history of the Admiral campaign for the 50 who attended.

The ceremony was not the only order of business at the theatre. The King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission held its meeting that day at the Admiral, and both the county heritage and arts programs presented their annual awards as well.

Our society hosted the morning event, and thanks go to Admiral Thriftway, Starbucks and Alki Bakery for contributions of food and beverages.

## Log House Museum project earns award from AKCHO

*'The Log House is one of the most significant buildings in the community and is being nominated to the Seattle landmarks register.'*

**AKCHO  
statement**



### *Work begins*

MEMBERS OF our society's Education Committee include (from left) Mary Parlato Gunderson, Kenneth G. Watson and Linda Chase, shown at the Log House. At left, the committee discusses history kits for area school children.

Photos by Deborah Mendenhall

## Kids loved Captain Sanislo

By ADA HALBERG

Here is an interview from this year with ERNA ALBERT, a longtime resident of Alki, now age 93:

Erna remembers clearly those days in the 1930s when she and her husband raised their taught daughters at Alki. They lived in a little house near Schmitz

Park, the Alki Playfield as well as the Alki School.

Today she volunteers to teach art at High Point Elementary School. She brings with her several years' training at the Chicago Art Institute.

She has an awareness of the current social and political issues, as those matters always were important in her home. She is proud of her grandson, recently elected Supreme Court justice of our state (and society member) Phil Talmadge. And Phil is proud of his grandma.

"When I want to think lovely thoughts, I think of the Patrol Boy Picnics the mothers had for the children in Schmitz Park," she says.

"Oh, yes, Ada, they were for girls, too. I knew you'd ask. Phyllis was a patrol girl. She was my youngest daughter. You remember her, a friend of your sister.

"The children loved those picnics. It was something they looked forward to all year. It was a happy and serious occasion. CAPTAIN SANISLO came, and CAPTAIN KIMBALL."

"Captain Sanislo?" I was so pleasantly started to hear his name, I almost shouted.

Not a child who saw and heard him has forgotten that amazing and talented man. His are the precautions I learned because of his presentations at school assemblies.

We sat enthralled learning so much that we needed to know, about fire safety especially. "Do Not Play with Matches," and "Shut All

Bedroom Doors at Night." He blustered onto the stage sounding like a fire engine, laughing and smiling, gesturing to us as we clapped, hollered and whistled with pleasure.

On the day Erna and I are remembering, the children were playing in the park when they heard his imitation of the fire siren. It was a very loud imitation, and they knew Captain Sanislo was near.

"Did you bring your mouth organ?" several boys shouted. He had several harmonicas of varying sizes. It seemed that one was only the size of his mouth. How they loved that man.

Mmm, smell that coffee. That pot had been on since early morning when the mothers arrived to prepare the food.

Captain Sanislo and Captain Kimball talked with the boys and girls when they got their awards. They were told their names would be inscribed on a plaque forever, and the plaque would hang in a very important building downtown, the Public Safety Building of Seattle. "It would hang there forever and ever," some children imagined in awe. "Forever, amen."

"They were given little buttons," Erna says. "They were so proud, you know. They kept those little buttons a long time."

In my mind's eye, I could see those little buttons, though I never owned one. I was envious, but I didn't question my mother's correctness in telling me that being on patrol was a job for my brother.

"You can fit a square peg in a round hole," my mother said.

"I don't remember when we stopped having those picnics, do you Ada?" Erna asks.

I couldn't say, "When that beauty in our eyes began to slip away from us." But I do recall reaching out for the feeling of it as I was raising my own family here.

*'Did you bring your mouth organ?' several boys shouted. He had several harmonicas of varying sizes. It seemed that one was only the size of his mouth. How they loved that man.*

The pleasures of Alki through

# Erna's and Ada's Eyes



**KING COUNTY** Council Member Greg Nickels speaks to a packed opening ceremony for this year's Homes with History tour. The ceremony was held in the Log House Museum.

Photos by Deborah Mendenhall

## Seventh annual home tour draws 400-plus participants

Our society's Homes with History tour, held Saturday, May 13, drew 406 tour-goers and raised more than \$2,000 for the society.

"We're particularly gratified at the enthusiasm expressed for the Log House Museum all day long," says **MERRILEE HAGEN**, society president. "That spirit and energy will go a long way toward making the museum a reality and opening in November 1996."

The opening ceremony featured presentations by King County Council Member **GREG NICKELS** and South Seattle Community College President **JERRY BROCKEY**, both members of our society, as well as our society's founder, first president and current Executive Board member, **ELLIOTT COUDEN**.

Thanks go to co-chairs Hagen and board member **MICHAEL PRIHODA**, the volunteers who hosted at the seven sites and to the major sponsors: West Seattle Herald/White Center News, Prudential/Benton's Real Estate, Northwest Art & Frame, John L. Scott West Seattle Real Estate, ERA/Bianchi-Zaar Real Estate and Cayce & Gain Real Estate.



**TOUR-GOERS** jammed the ticket counter at the Log House Museum.

*'We're particularly gratified at the enthusiasm expressed for the Log House Museum all day long. That spirit and energy will go a long way toward making the museum a reality and opening in November 1996.'*

*Merrilee Hagen, society president*

*Would you like to:*

- *Work on next year's Homes with History tour?*
  - *Help get the Log House Museum up and running?*
  - *Help write a history column for the West Seattle Herald/White Center News?*
- Please call Carol Vincent, membership secretary, at 937-6744.*

# Emergency Fund-Raising Campaign

Yes, I want to help with the Log House Museum construction

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$1,000{ } \$500{ } \$250{ ) \$100{ } Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please tear off form and mail, with your check or money order, to:

Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
Emergency Fund-Raising Campaign  
c/o South Seattle Community College  
6000 16th Ave. S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98106

All tax donations are tax deductible. SWSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. IRS ID# 91-1297010.

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## Welcome to a new board member, a summer intern and an old friend

*Christiana Gerber  
will keep regular  
hours of 10 a.m. to 3  
p.m. every Friday  
and Saturday. Call  
her at 938-5293.*

**CHRISTIANA GERBER**, a senior at the University of Montana in Missoula, is serving as our society's intern this summer, working out of the Log House Museum.

Gerber, who began work June 5, will keep regular summer hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Friday and Saturday at the museum. She can be reached by calling the museum at 938-5293.

With a major in human relations, Gerber will work for three months. She will serve as the museum's communications hub and to conduct

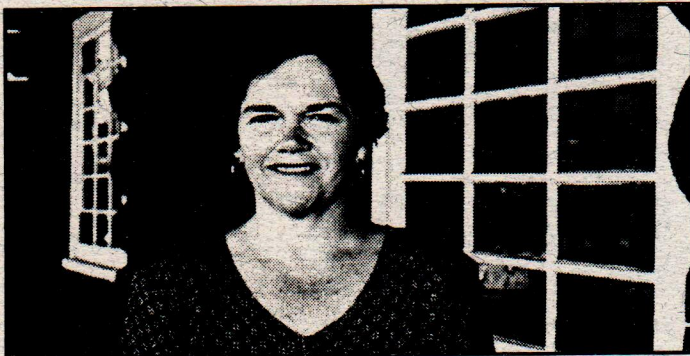
research for **FLO LENTZ**, architectural historian and former society board member whom our society has hired to prepare a Seattle landmark nomination for the museum and the Alki Homestead restaurant.

Lentz, of Ellensburg, has been deeply involved in our society. She chaired our first Homes with History tour and prepared a landmark nomination for the Admiral Theatre that the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board termed a model document.

Also recently, the Executive Board filled a vacancy prompt by a resignation.

The position of **ARNIE VICKLUND**, which runs through December 1996, has been filled by **ALLEN NELSON**, a Beach Drive resident who owns an investment firm.

The position of **CAROL MUNOZ**, which runs through December 1997, is vacant, owing to her resignation. The Executive Board anticipates filling the spot this month.



**FLO LENTZ**, former Executive Board member, is preparing the Log House Museum landmark nomination.  
Photo by Deborah Mendenhall

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### FOOTPRINTS

(Editors: Clay Eals, Brad Chrisman)  
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c/o South Seattle Community College  
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